

FIRST OF SUNDAY ADVENT/CHRISTMAS - HOPE NOVEMBER 28, 2021

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Prelude Jan Mauck, Church Pianist

Welcome and Greeting in Jesus' Name

*Opening #153 "Come, Thou Long - Expectant Jesus"

*Call to Worship *THE HOPE CANDLE*

Lord, to you we lift our souls as we eagerly wait your coming.

In you, God, we put our trust as we are filled with hope for your arrival.

While we wait for you, do not let us be put to shame.

While we wait for you, do not remember the sins of our youth.

Lead us in your truth and teach us,

For you are the God of our salvation, and for you we wait all day long.

We light the candle of hope this week because we know the Lord's mercy and steadfast love has been from old. All of the Lord's works display God's faithfulness, so we know we have a hope for the future.

We can wait with hopeful expectation because the Lord is good and upright. Surely the Lord will come and lead us in what is right.

[†]Reading based on Psalm 25:1-10, the Holy Bible, New International Version (NIV), © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2021 by Biblica, Inc. from Reformed Worship Number 141 (September 2021) © 2021 by Worship Ministries of the Christian Reformed Church. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

*Song of Faith #203 "Away in a Manger" *CRADLE SONG*

*Opening Prayer – God of Hope, as we wait for you, please send your Spirit to renew our longing for the days when all will be made right in our relationships with you, one another, and your creation. As we wait for those days, give us eyes to see your faithfulness and ears to hear of your goodness so that our hearts may be humbled and filled with hope for Christ's coming kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

*Songs of Praise #123 "Fairest Lord Jesus" *CRUSADER'S HYMN*

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Scripture Reader: Nancy Lindberg

The First Reading **Jeremiah 33:14-16**

The Second Reading **1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ **Luke 21:25-36**

Responsorial #108 "There's Something About That Name" *GAITHER*

Stewardship Testimony **Sonia Roling**

Announcements & Presentation of Tithes, Gifts, and Donations - Collection plates are in the front and back of the sanctuary, and you can also give online.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.

Special Music #163 "All Earth is Hopeful" *TAULÉ*

Children's Sermon (Kids 3rd Grade and Younger can walk to Children's Church)

Prayer & Message "Far from Home"
Angela Barker Jackson

WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH & SERVICE

*Invitation to Faith and Fellowship – If the Spirit of God is moving you to receive God's forgiving love in Jesus, calling you to be a follower of Jesus in the waters of baptism, or encouraging you to join this Christian Church, please come forward during this song.

*Hymn #177 "Jesus, Name Above All Names" *HEARN*

*Spoken Benediction

*Postlude **Jan Mauck, Church Pianist**

HOW TO BECOME A FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF JESUS

GOOD NEWS! God loves you and wants to rescue all people from the consequences of evil. The Bible teaches the way to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ:

1. **ADMIT** – Admit to God you have done wrong things (sinned) which have hurt God and others. Apologize to God and turn away from harmful behavior and start doing good things (See Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:9; Acts 3:19).
2. **BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOU AND GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD** – Accept and trust that Jesus is God's one and only Son who died on the cross in your place and give God the credit for raising Jesus from the dead (See Romans 5:8; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31a; John 3:16; 1 Peter 3:18; John 14:6).
3. **CONFESS JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD** – Make a religious commitment to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus by trusting Him to be your Rescuer and Redeemer (Savior) and Ultimate Leader (Lord). (See Romans 10:9 and 10; Romans 10:13; Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23)
4. **DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO THE JESUS WAY** - Tell your family and friends about your new trust in Jesus Christ by coming to the front of the Sanctuary at the end of a worship service to publicly share your decision to be a follower of Jesus (Christian).

HOW TO JOIN THIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH - COME FORWARD – Any person professing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and accepting the Baptist principles, practices, and the covenant of this church, may join this Christian church. Persons interested in affiliating should speak with the Pastor, Moderator, or come forward at a meeting of the congregation. A person may join by Believer's Baptism, Letter of Transfer from a previous Christian church with prior baptism, or a Satisfactory Statement of Christian Faith.



American Baptist Church USA – American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) is one of the most diverse Christian denominations today, with 5,000 local congregations comprised of 1.3 million members across the United States and Puerto Rico. www.abc-usa.org



FIRST SUNDAY
OF
Advent

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